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Latinos in Somerville: Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

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Latinos in Somerville

Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

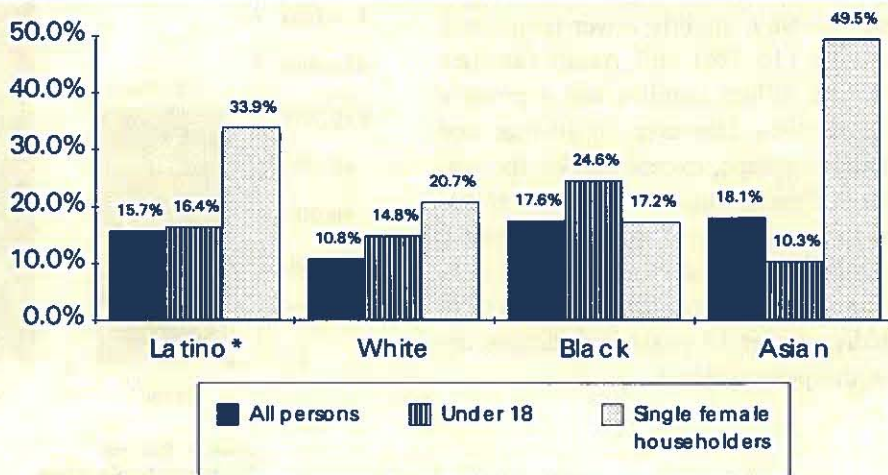
Part two of a series of profiles of Latinos in Massachusetts completed with support from The Boston Foundation

The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was established at the University of Massachusetts Boston in December of 1989. The creation of the Gastón Institute responds to the need for better understanding of the experience and conditions of life of Latinos in the Commonwealth. Its purpose is to conduct research about the Latino population in Massachusetts and to develop the kind of information and analysis necessary for the development of sound public policy and for the effective participation of the Latino population in public policy development in the Commonwealth. In an effort to facilitate the access to vital information about Latinos to various audiences, and with support from the Boston Foundation, the Gastón Institute has produced a series of basic demographic profiles for selected cities in the Commonwealth based on the 1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing (Massachusetts Summary Tape File 3A, produced by the U.S. Bureau of the Census). These profiles are but one part of a broader initiative to disseminate the 1990 U.S. Census and to address other relevant aspects of the social and economic situation of Latinos in the Commonwealth.



Latinos in Somerville had 15.7% of its population with income below the poverty level. This proportion is greater than that of whites (10.8%) but lower than blacks (17.6%) and Asians (18.1%). Of those Latinos under the age of 18, 16.4% had income below the poverty level. In particular, the rate of poverty was greatest among those Latino children under 5 years of age and between 12 and 17 years of age.

Somerville: Select Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity in 1989



Universe: Persons for whom poverty status is determined and families headed by single females
 *Latino may be of any race

Somerville: Poverty Status by Age and Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Persons Below Poverty	Latino*	Poverty Rate	Total**	Poverty Rate	White	Poverty Rate	Black	Poverty Rate	Asian	Poverty Rate
Total below poverty level	720	15.7%	8,492	11.5%	7,096	10.8%	718	17.6%	477	18.1%
Under 5 years	43	11.2%	482	12.9%	381	12.3%	70	24.6%	21	9.7%
5 years	2	3.5%	112	16.5%	87	15.9%	18	23.7%	5	13.2%
6 to 11 years	41	13.6%	604	17.4%	546	18.1%	27	10.9%	15	21.7%
12 to 17 years	86	27.8%	561	15.6%	426	14.0%	125	33.9%	5	4.1%
18 to 64 years	517	14.8%	5,755	10.8%	4,709	10.0%	466	15.6%	431	19.8%
65 to 74 years	7	19.4%	472	9.2%	460	9.2%	12	13.2%	0	--
75 years and over	24	80.0%	506	12.9%	487	12.6%	0	--	0	--
Total	4,600		74,061		65,778		4,091		2,639	

Universe: Persons for whom poverty is determined

*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

Somerville: Poverty Status by Family Type, by Race and Ethnicity, with Presence and Age of Children, 1989

Families	Latino*	Poverty rate	Total**	Poverty rate	White	Poverty rate	Black	Poverty rate	Asian	Poverty rate
Income below poverty level	149	14.7%	1,221	7.6%	992	6.9%	118	15.7%	85	15.1%
Married-couple family:	51	8.2%	440	3.9%	328	3.2%	61	15.5%	33	7.7%
With related children under 18 years	27	6.7%	241	5.0%	179	4.3%	36	12.3%	8	3.2%
No related children under 18 years	24	10.9%	199	3.0%	149	2.4%	25	25.0%	25	14.2%
Male householder, no wife present:	0	--	15	1.4%	9	1.0%	0	--	6	15.0%
With related children under 18 years	0	--	9	2.9%	9	3.4%	0	--	0	--
No related children under 18 years	0	--	6	0.8%	0	--	0	--	6	15.0%
Female householder, no husband present:	98	33.9%	766	20.7%	655	20.6%	57	17.2%	46	49.5%
With related children under 18 years	80	39.2%	686	41.1%	575	43.6%	57	24.2%	46	69.7%
No related children under 18 years	18	21.2%	80	4.0%	80	4.3%	0	--	0	--
Total Families	1,014		16,097		14,468		751		562	

Universe: Families

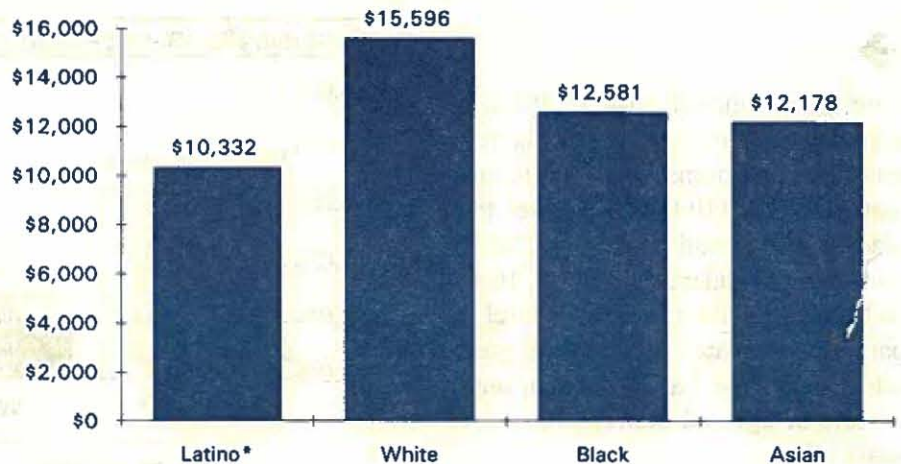
*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



Among Latino families in Somerville, 14.7% had incomes below the poverty level in 1989, slightly lower than black families (15.7%) and Asian families (15.1%). White families had a poverty rate of 6.9%. However, in all race and ethnicity groups, except blacks, the majority of these families with income below the poverty level were single female households. For Latino families, 39.2% of single female households with related children under 18 years had income below the poverty level.

Somerville: Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989



Universe: Persons

*Latino may be of any race

Somerville: Household Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Household Income	Latino *	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$5,000	96	1,403	1,204	84	67
\$5,000 to \$9,999	116	2,824	2,673	72	57
\$10,000 to \$14,999	59	2,222	2,060	135	27
\$15,000 to \$24,999	260	4,690	4,174	298	178
\$25,000 to \$34,999	257	4,945	4,477	270	104
\$35,000 to \$49,999	361	6,229	5,592	269	247
\$50,000 to \$74,999	286	5,350	4,944	197	109
\$75,000 to \$99,999	29	1,679	1,560	68	51
\$100,000 and more	8	977	927	17	25
Total	1,472	30,319	27,611	1,410	865

Universe: Households

Median household income in Somerville: \$32,455

*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

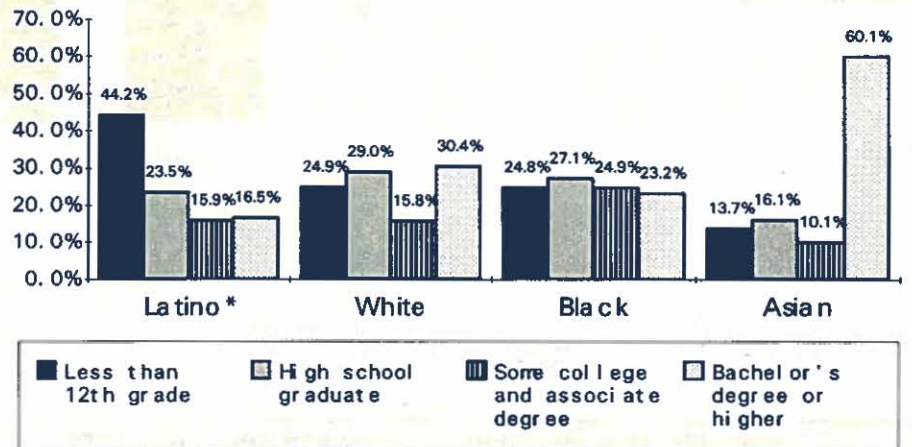


While Massachusetts median household income in 1989 was \$36,952, the median income in Somerville was \$32,455. In 1989, the per capita income of Latinos in Lynn was \$10,332, lower than any other race or ethnic group. Blacks and Asians had a slightly higher per capita income, \$12,581 and \$12,178 respectively. Whites had the highest per capita income, \$15,596.

In 1990, 44.2% of the Latinos in the city of Somerville had not received a high school diploma. This proportion was higher than any other race or ethnic group. At higher levels of education, 15.9% of Latinos attended some college or received an associate degree, and 16.5% received a bachelor's, professional, or graduate degree. Overall, the educational attainment of the Latino population lagged the other race or ethnic groups.



Somerville: Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity in 1990					
Educational Attainment	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than 9th grade	787	5,739	5,037	351	127
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	381	7,112	6,538	278	116
High school graduate	620	14,617	13,484	688	284
Some college, no degree	293	6,149	5,469	426	143
Associate degree	126	2,168	1,866	205	36
Bachelor's degree	251	9,060	8,165	323	483
Graduate or professional	185	6,931	6,006	267	580
Total	2,643	51,776	46,565	2,538	1,769



Universe: Persons 25 years old and over
 *Latino may be of any race
 **Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

Somerville: Employment Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1990

Persons	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Male	2,045	30,896	27,402	1,564	1,218
Employed	1,616	21,497	19,507	1,064	915
Unemployed	204	1,690	1,418	248	24
Armed forces	0	68	68	0	0
Not in labor force	225	7,018	6,409	252	279
Participation Rate	89.0%	77.1%	76.4%	83.9%	77.1%
Unemployment Rate	11.2%	7.3%	6.8%	18.9%	2.6%
Female	1,670	34,935	31,412	1,856	1,148
Employed	1,046	21,309	19,321	1,287	666
Unemployed	179	1,108	940	134	34
Armed forces	0	8	8	0	0
Not in labor force	445	12,103	11,143	435	448
Participation Rate	73.4%	65.3%	64.5%	76.6%	61.0%
Unemployment Rate	14.6%	4.9%	4.6%	9.4%	4.9%
Total	3,715	65,831	58,814	3,420	2,366
Employed	2,662	42,806	38,828	2,351	1,581
Unemployed	383	2,798	2,358	382	58
Armed forces	0	76	76	0	0
Not in labor force	670	19,121	17,552	687	727
Participation Rate	82.0%	70.8%	70.0%	79.9%	69.3%
Unemployment Rate	12.6%	6.1%	5.7%	14.0%	3.5%

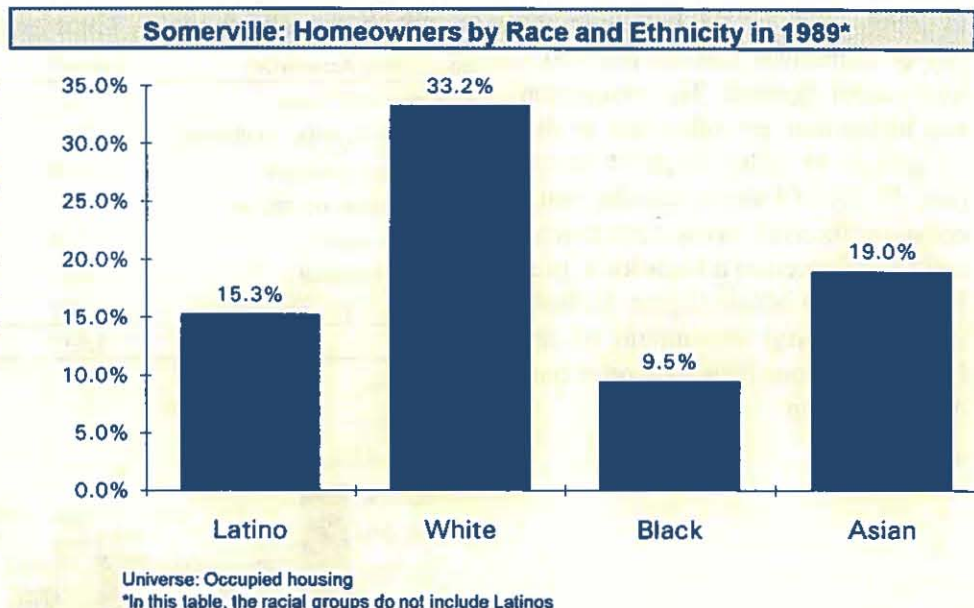
Universe: Persons 16 years and over
 *Latino may be of any race
 **Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



In 1990, Latinos constituted 6.7% of the Somerville labor force. Of the 3,045 Latinos in the labor force (employed plus unemployed), 1,225 were females and 1,820 were males. The labor force participation rate for Latino men in 1990 was 89.0%, higher than any other group. Their unemployment rate was 11.2%, higher than any other group except black men (18.9%). The participation rate for Latina women, 73.4%, was higher than white (64.5%) or Asian (61.0%) women, but lower than black women (76.6%). Latina women had the highest unemployment rate, 14.6%, almost three times higher than white women (4.6%).



In 1989, 15.3% of Latino households in Somerville were homeowners, compared to 33.2% of white, 9.5% of black, and 19.0% of Asian householders. The majority of Latino households, 84.7%, rented their dwelling. This rate was higher than the rate for Latinos in Massachusetts where 82.6% of Latino households are renters.



Somerville: Mortgage Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Mortgage Payments	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	0	12	12	0	0
\$300 to \$499	7	211	196	0	7
\$500 to \$999	24	569	569	0	0
\$1,000 or more	55	672	564	24	61
Not mortgaged:	11	972	942	20	10
Total	97	2,436	2,283	44	78

Universe: Specified owner-occupied housing units include only one-family houses, on fewer than 10 acres, without a business or medical office on property

*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



Of those with a mortgage, 56.7% of Latinos had a mortgage of over \$1,000; 24.7% of whites, 54.5% of blacks, and 78.2% of Asians had a mortgage over \$1,000.



Of those renter-occupied housing units, 19.4% of the Latino population paid less than \$500 monthly compared to 26.8% of whites, 16.2% of blacks, and 7.4% of Asians. The majority of Latino renters (757) paid a gross rent of \$500 to \$999 a month; 17.2% of Latinos paid a monthly rent of over \$1,000, while 11.6% of whites, 14.3% of blacks, and 15.5% of Asians paid over \$1,000.

Somerville: Amount of Gross Rent by Race and Ethnicity for 1989

Gross Rent per Month	Latino	Total*	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	73	2,064	1,969	55	23
\$300 to \$499	159	3,241	3,027	129	33
\$500 to \$999	757	12,846	11,226	792	580
\$1,000 or more	205	2,510	2,155	163	117
No cash rent	0	260	260	0	0
Total	1,194	20,921	18,637	1,139	753

Universe: Specified renter-occupied housing

*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races